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## THE SATURDAY PRESS.

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### A Freak of Fortune.

BY EMMA LUCIE BROWN.

When golden rods began to light  
The wondrous thickets tangled maze,  
And bowled, bold and wondrous height,  
Were wrapped in soft September haze,  
One eve—God's immortal stars,  
Were gleaming in the fields of ether—  
We listened at the window bars,  
And watched the deepening night together.

About the hills the rose flush  
Of sunset's after-glow lingered;  
Perfect was eve's delicious light,  
Saw when some revery, dew-fingered,  
Drew from the East Eolian song,  
The music that awakens and mingles  
With softest Nature's mellow tones,  
In lofty haunts and ferny dingles.

A lovely murmur stirred among  
The odors by the glowing river;  
Low in the west resplendent hung  
Daisy's silver light and quiver—  
The hunter's moon, his gentle gleam,  
O'erflowed the world with tranquil glory,  
As in the fragrant night  
We two walked the old story.

The old, sweet story, ever new!  
Fate's story, our souls to sever;  
For I was numbered, poor and low,  
You were pledged to Guilebertine forever.  
You were my jewel in your hair,  
And on your finger, white and slender,  
A wonderful "rose-solitaire,"  
Flashed back the moon's translucent splendor!

Yes, Fate decreed that we should part;  
And so, with passionate embraces,  
We clung a moment, heart to heart,  
Death's pallor on our young faces;  
For of the world the midnight train  
Kissed down the gorge with clang and thunder,  
A kiss—a smothered cry of pain—  
And then our souls were torn asunder!

A year! What curious freaks, ah, me,  
The fickle goddess, Fortune, seizes;  
My grief, old uncle, humble me,  
Has died, and left me rich as Croesus!  
Old Guilebertine has blundered thro'  
For wealth, you still see Mood Trevelyan—  
Whist! my sweet, can offer you  
Love, happiness, and—thrice a million!

### My Love's Cigar.

BY ELZA WHEELER.

The room is a blaze of splendid light,  
Fair ladies glide through the festal hall,  
A thousand gasps dart the light;  
But oh! to be out of it—out of it all—  
Down in the glowing and dusky air,  
With never a light but my love's cigar.

I walk in a garden of royal bloom,  
The very tropical islands seem  
To have brought their choicest rare perfume  
To hush the soul in a lotus dream.  
To have it all, and be well content,  
For a breath of his fine Havana scent.

I hate this life of glitter and gold—  
Of folly and feigning and fashion fuss;  
Oh! for the freedom I bargained—sold—  
My love, and the sunshine over us.  
The cottage yard and the garden-seat,  
And a smoky odor, as rare as sweet.

Oh, to be under the evening skies,  
Gay and happy and blithe and free,  
Watching the light of my own love's eyes  
As they shine in their perfect trust to me!  
Oh, to walk, "neath the evening star,"  
Alone with my love and his fine cigar.

### Brevities.

France has 40,000,000 hens, with only 5,000,000 women to throw them at them. An exchange assumes to tell "what the Indians raise." The things they raise most is that which Robert Ingersoll does not believe in.—*Spencerport Journal*.

"Patrick, that is the worst-looking horse I ever saw; why don't you fasten him up?" "Faith! the poor beast can hardly carry the little mate that's on him now."

An old sail, when asked how far north he had been, replied that he had been so far north that "the cows when milked beside a red hot stove gave ice cream."

"Sit down," said a handsomely-dressed and vivacious young lady to a companion at a fashionable watering place; "sit down: it's the only thing you can do here without being obliged to pay for it."

"Ella, is your father at home?" said a bashful lover to his sweetheart. "I want to propose something very important to him." "No, Clarence, papa is not at home, but I am. Couldn't you propose to me just as well?" And he did with perfect success.

The *Evanson Index* says that women resemble flowers. They shut up when they sleep. The gentlemen are probably young; he may yet come to learn that there is more relief in slumber.

A man out west turned state's evidence and swore he was a member of a gang of thieves. By and by they found the roll of actual members, and accused the man of swearing falsely. "I was a member," said the man; "I was an honorable member."

When you see a man take of his hat to you it is a sign that he respects you; but when he is seen divesting himself of his coat you can make up your mind that he intends you shall respect him.—*Yonkers Statesman*.

A new Baptist convert wished very much to be baptized by one minister and to join the church of another. She went to the first and asked if it could be done. "Yes," he replied, "I could do it, but don't take in washing."

A poet asks: "When I am dead and lowly laid, \* \* \* And clouds fall heavy from the heavy spade, You'll think of me?" Don't worry. Tailors and shoemakers have retentive memories, and you'll not be forgotten.—*Norristown Herald*.

Tourist: "I say, boy, what's the name of that hill yonder?" Boy: "Dunbar." Tourist: "Don't know. What lived here all your life, and don't know the name of it?" Boy: "No; the hill was here before I came."

The last piece of rustic laziness encountered by out-of-town correspondents is that of the man who, being asked what allied his eye, answered, "Nothin'; I shut it coz I can see well enough with one. Sometimes I shut one, sometimes I other."

When Dr. H. and lawyer A. were walking arm-in-arm, a wag said to a friend: "These two are just equal to one highwayman." "Why," asked his friend, "because," rejoined the wag, "it is a lawyer and a doctor—your money or your life!"

Miss Mumford has an elderly admirer, who the other day presented her with a handsome lace collar. "Now, don't," he said, with a sort of elephantine playfulness, "do not let any one else tamper with it." "No, dear," answered Lavinia, "I will be careful to take it off."

## Cane Planting.

The heading of this article calls attention to the most important item which belongs to raising a good crop of cane, and planters are found to disagree in matters which one would suppose had been thoroughly and conclusively settled by actual experiment in the years that have passed.

A large majority of planters still adhere to the old plan of planting three and four canes in the row, without reference to the quality of the cane planted, or the strength of the land on which the crop is to be made. Nature plainly teaches us that the burden should be apportioned to the strength of the soil, and if we wish the plants to attain a fair size, we must not have too many of them, or we shall have an inferior growth.

With a crop of cane it is certainly desirable and profitable to have a good and regular stand, so as to secure an abundant yield, yet we have never seen an experiment made to determine how many canes should be found in a row a foot long. On page 81 of the diary of the late Mr. Valcour, Aime, we find the following entry which throws great light on the subject of thick and thin planting:

"On the second of June, I carefully counted fifteen hundred canes on a row twenty compasses long, and when cut for grinding, all possible care being taken to avoid a mistake, only six hundred were found and brought to the mill, over one-half having perished from want of strength in the soil to bring them to maturity. In other words, the Darwinian theory is fully illustrated by a survival of the fittest."

There are some planters, and successful ones, too, who usually, with sound cane, plant one stalk with a top, which gives them a good stand of cane, as it suckers much better than that planted with two and three stalks.

From an experiment made on a small scale last year, we are inclined to think that thin planting with sound cane is the right way to do it. We planted one stalk with a top, and although it did not seem so thick in the row as the other cane, yet we found no difference as to the quantity of cane on the ground when cut. It suckered freely, and the ground not being over-crowded, the suckers matured and made ripe canes.

The amount of cane actually used to plant a crop is so much subtracted from our working capital, and this is an annual loss, planting the cultivators of cane at a serious disadvantage when compared with those who cultivate cotton and corn.

The troubles and disappointments of cane growers are sufficiently numerous, and any alleviation would be thankfully and gratefully received; if each one would make the experiment on a small scale, some rational conclusion would be speedily arrived at.

Under the persevering efforts of Commissioners Leake, many rivals to our interests as sugar planters are making their appearance, and what with the product of amber cane, potatoes, corn-stalks and water-melons, cane juice seems likely to be eclipsed and lose the prestige it has heretofore enjoyed as the producer of saccharine matter. These articles can be produced in cold climates, and although they may not yield abundantly they may nevertheless seriously curtail the demand for our product, and thereby affect our interests to an injurious extent.

With the prospect ahead of us, and the possibility of a return of the low prices of 1877-78, it is incumbent on us to make all the improvements in the cultivation of cane and the manufacture of sugar which science and actual experiment may suggest.

Unfortunately, planters and farmers progress very slowly, and have a strong tendency to keep in the old groove, and there is probably no branch of business involving the same amount of capital which has made such insignificant progress during the present century.—*Assumption (La.) Pioneer*.

The French Annexation of Tahiti.

The protectorate which France has long exercised over Tahiti and the group of the Society Islands has just terminated; King Pomare the V. abdicates and the islands become a French colony. This step is due mainly to the management of Mr. Cheeser, who has acted as Governor. Tahiti can now enter on a career of real progress under French energy. As in other Pacific islands, the native population is fast disappearing, having fallen from 16,000 at the commencement of the century to about 6,000. Of the immigrant population, 130 only are French, while English and Americans count 407, and Chinese 406. The French expect that the opening of the Panama canal, Tahiti will become a great stopping place for steamers. About one-fourth of the soil is rich and productive, but a very small portion is turned to account. In proper hands it would furnish a rich supply of tropical fruits to the western shores of America.

A submarine volcano has been discovered in the Pacific, south of Fortiario and the Bonin Islands, by Commander Huntington of the United States steamer *Albatross*. First a volume of vapor was discovered rising from the sea, followed by the upheaval of black masses. As the ship approached the submarine volcano the masses thrown up were distinguished as mud and ashes. The upheavals were accompanied by dull reports, like those from submarine mines and an odor of sulphur. Several days were spent in making the reconnaissance. A reef, or island, in process of formation. Soundings were obtained in from five to twenty-nine fathoms. The water was full of ashes and mud, and some of this and one specimen of the bottom were brought on board. At night flames were noticed issuing from the volcano.

The editor laid his half-smoked cigar on the table, and the candidate, dropping in to talk matters over, perched himself on the table and sat down on the real Connecticut Havana. By and by he sadly slipped off his high seat. "You are not lukewarm in your cause, anyhow," he said plaintively. "Ah, no," replied the editor, encouragingly, "the old fires are still burning." And then a great bush fell upon the busy sanctum, such a profound silence that for a minute you might have heard a gum drop.

—*Burlington Hawkeye*.

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